



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Howard Denis

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Ken Hartman (240)777-7965
Howard Denis (301)656-3682

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Statement by Councilmember Howard Denis on the Need for Designation of Maiden Lane as a Neighborhood Park

"I'm absolutely thrilled that the final legal dispute has been resolved by the Court of Special Appeals over the disposition of the Maiden Lane property. This decision clears the way for the County to live up to its responsibility to protect this property as a neighborhood park.

"The Court's decision is a reminder that government must act responsibly, particularly when selling off County property. The Maiden Lane property was originally purchased by the County in 1952 as a right-of-way for a future road connection which was never built. Instead, County constructed a sidewalk on the property in 1961 to facilitate pedestrian access to schools and transit. The sale of the property for development in 2000 was a mistake which has now been fully resolved.

"In January 2001, the County Council recognized the strong interest that existed in the continued public ownership of the property to preserve trees, meet open space needs, and maintain pedestrian access to schools and transit. The Council believed that these important public policy objectives would be best met if the property was managed as a park by the Park and Planning Commission. The Council took action by unanimously adopting Resolution 14-737, which I sponsored, requesting that Park and Planning acquire the Maiden Lane property as a park.

"Now that the legal dispute has been resolved, I call upon the Park and Planning Commission to follow through and begin work to officially designate the Maiden Lane property as a neighborhood park." # # #